

I. IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for ordering and payment allocation for a seller and a ~~plurality of~~ buying entity entities, the seller having a plurality of subsidiaries, and the ~~plurality of~~ buying entity entities ~~each~~ having a plurality of buyers, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving, at an ordering and payment allocation system ~~for the seller~~, a plurality of orders comprising at least one order from more than one of the plurality of buyers associated with a buying entity, the plurality of orders corresponding to more than one subsidiary of the seller;

using a computer processor, consolidating, at the ordering and payment allocation system ~~for the seller~~, the plurality of orders for the buying entity into a consolidated invoice comprising particulars on the orders of the plurality of buyers associated with the buying entity;

making ~~each of~~ the consolidated invoice ~~invoices~~ available to the buying entity;

receiving, at the ordering and payment allocation system ~~for the seller~~, an indication ~~approved consolidated invoice~~ from the buying entity, ~~including an indication~~ as to which of the orders a payment is ~~being~~ approved and which orders are ~~being~~ disputed or excepted;

receiving, at the ordering and payment allocation system ~~for the seller~~, an aggregated payment from the buying entity;

using the computer processor, disaggregating the aggregated payments by associating portions of the aggregated payment with an approved order and a corresponding subsidiary;

using the computer processor, allocating the portions of each of the aggregated payments to the corresponding subsidiary for which the payment has been made;

gathering A/R data and information based on the payments to subsidiaries, approved orders or the disputed or excepted orders; ~~and~~

providing the A/R data and information to the seller;

using the computer processor, performing a consolidated receivables process to gather payment data into consolidated receivables data for a single report; and

using the computer processor, matching the consolidated receivables data to an outstanding sub-invoice file, and providing the matched data to the seller.

2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the orders are received electronically.

3. (Original) The method according to Claim 2, wherein the orders are received via the Internet.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the act of evaluating a received order against at least one of a spending limit corresponding to the buying entity and an available credit limit corresponding to the buying entity to determine whether to book the received order.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the acts of:

booking those received orders which have been evaluated as not exceeding the evaluated spending limits; and

creating a receivable entry in a seller account receivable system.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 5, further comprising the act of executing one or more off-balance sheet processes.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the consolidation act is comprised of the acts of sorting and compiling the booked orders to create a single invoice.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the compiling act includes formatting booked orders received from different buying entities into a common format.

9. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the consolidated invoice includes sub-invoice data, sub-invoice data being data which corresponds to booked orders placed by a respective buyer.

10. (Original) The method according to Claim 9, wherein the sub-invoice data is transmitted to the respective buyer.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the act of making the consolidated invoice available includes at least one of:

sending an electronic message to the **buyer buying entity** to notify the **buyer buying entity** of an availability of the consolidated invoice;

distributing a paper statement to the **buyer buying entity**; and

transmitting the consolidated invoice to the **buyer buying entity**.

12. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the act of displaying the consolidated invoice on a buyer terminal, wherein the buyer indicates approval of sub-invoice items corresponding to the consolidated invoice using the buyer terminal.

13. (Original) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the indication includes the act of entering a code corresponding to a reason payment is being approved or denied for a sub-invoice item.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 12, further comprising the act of using the buyer terminal to authorize payment to the seller.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1 ~~[[15]]~~, wherein the payment is received via one of an automated clearing house, a wire transfer, a lock box, a foreign exchange trade, electronic cash, netting via the Internet, an electronic wallet and a check.

17. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1 ~~[[15]]~~, further comprising the act of updating a payment master database, the payment master database comprising records having:

- a payment date;
- a payment method;
- a payment reference;
- a payment amount;
- a from currency;
- a to currency;
- f/x, tax and fee data;
- a distribution status; and
- an amount distributed.

18. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1 ~~[[15]]~~, further comprising the act of processing the received **aggregated** payment.

19. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1 ~~[[18]]~~, ~~wherein the act of processing the received payment is comprised of at least one of the acts of further comprising:~~

~~performing a consolidated receivables process to gather payment data into consolidated receivables data for a single report;~~

~~matching the consolidated receivables data to an outstanding sub-invoice file, and providing the matched data to the seller;~~

providing complete accounts receivable processing, ~~the act of providing complete accounts receivable processing~~ comprising the acts of:

receiving the matched data;

applying the merged and consolidated receivables data to create accounts receivable and general ledger update data; and

updating a general ledger corresponding to the seller.

20. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1 ~~[[19]]~~, wherein the payment data gathered into the single report during the consolidated receivables process is received from a plurality of service providers.

21. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1 ~~[[13]]~~, wherein the allocation act is comprised of the acts of:

~~receiving the authorized payment;~~

disaggregating the received payment to associate portions of the received payment with one or more selling sub-entities;

processing the received payment to update an accounts receivable system;

generating at least one funding report;

delivering the at least one funding report to the respective sub-entities; and

transferring the disaggregated funds to financial accounts for the corresponding sub-entities.

22. (Original) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the funding report generation act is comprised of the act of updating a payment master database to reflect a distribution status and amount distributed to the corresponding subsidiary.

23. (Original) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the funding report comprises:

- a list of sub-invoice items included in the distribution;
- a payment date;
- results of exception and dispute processing;
- sub-invoice details; and
- reason codes.

24. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the allocation act includes the acts of:

~~receiving the payment;~~

determining an incremental funding amount;

funding a subsidiary corresponding to a holding account via a foreign exchange if the incremental funding amount equals or exceed a predetermined total when combined with a holding account amount; and

allocating the incremental funding amount to the holding account amount when the incremental funding amount is less than the predetermined total when combined with the holding account amount.

25-66. (Canceled)

67. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing computer executable programmatic code for an order management system for a seller and a ~~plurality of~~ buying entity entities, the seller having a plurality of subsidiaries, and the ~~plurality of~~ buying entity entities ~~each~~ having a plurality of buyers, which, when executed, performs the acts of:

receiving, at the order management system ~~for the seller~~, a plurality of orders comprising at least one order from more than one of the plurality of buyers

associated with a buying entity, the plurality of orders corresponding to more than one subsidiary of the seller;

consolidating, the order management system ~~for the seller~~, the plurality of orders for the buying entity into a consolidated invoice comprising particulars on the orders of the plurality of buyers associated with the buying entity;

making ~~each of~~ the consolidated invoice ~~invoices~~ available to the buying entity;

receiving, at the order management system ~~for the seller~~, an indication ~~approved consolidated invoice~~ from the buying entity, ~~including an indication~~ as to which of the orders a payment is ~~being~~ approved and which orders are ~~being~~ disputed or excepted;

receiving, at the ordering and payment allocation system ~~for the seller~~, an aggregated payment from the buying entity;

disaggregating the aggregated payments by associating portions of the aggregated payment with an approved order and a corresponding subsidiary;

allocating the portions of each of the aggregated payments to the corresponding subsidiary for which the payment has been made;

gathering A/R data and information based on the payments to subsidiaries, approved orders or the disputed or excepted orders; ~~and~~

providing the A/R data and information to the seller;

performing a consolidated receivables process to gather payment data into consolidated receivables data for a single report; and

matching the consolidated receivables data to an outstanding sub-invoice file, and providing the matched data to the seller.

68. (Original) The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the orders are received electronically.

69. (Original) The storage medium according to Claim 68, wherein the orders are received via the Internet.

70. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to Claim 68, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of evaluating the received order against at least one of a spending limit corresponding to the buyer's and an available credit limit corresponding to the buying entity to determine whether to book the order.

71. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to Claim 70, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the acts of:

booking those received orders which have been evaluated as not exceeding the evaluated spending limits; and

creating a receivable entry in a seller account receivable system.

72. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to Claim 71, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of executing one or more off-balance sheet processes.

73. (Original) The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the consolidation act is comprised of the acts of sorting and compiling the booked orders to create a single invoice.

74. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to Claim 73, wherein the compiling act includes formatting booked orders received from different buying entities into a common format.

75. (Original) The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the consolidated invoice includes sub-invoice data, sub-invoice data being data which corresponds to booked orders placed by a respective buyer.

76. (Original) The storage medium according to Claim 75, wherein the sub-invoice data is transmitted to the respective buyer.

77. (Currently amended) The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the act of making the consolidated invoice available includes at least one of:

sending an electronic message to the ~~buyer~~ buying entity to notify the ~~buyer~~ buying entity of an availability of the consolidated invoice;
distributing a paper statement to the ~~buyer~~ buying entity; and
transmitting the consolidated invoice to the ~~buyer~~ buying entity.

78. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of displaying the consolidated invoice on a buyer terminal, wherein the buyer indicates approval of sub-invoice items corresponding to the consolidated invoice using the buyer terminal.

79. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to Claim 78, wherein the buyer's approval indication includes the act of entering a code corresponding to a reason payment is being approved or denied for a sub-invoice item.

80. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to Claim 78, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of using the buyer terminal to authorize payment to the seller.

81. (Cancelled)

82. (Currently amended) The storage medium according to Claim 67 ~~[[81]]~~, wherein the payment is received via one of an automated clearing house, a wire transfer, a lock box, a foreign exchange trade, electronic cash, netting via the Internet, an electronic wallet and a check.

83. (Currently amended) The storage medium according to Claim 67 ~~[[81]]~~, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of updating a

payment master database, the payment master database comprising records which include:

- a payment date;
- a payment method;
- a payment reference;
- a payment amount;
- a from currency;
- a to currency;
- f/x, tax and fee data;
- a distribution status; and
- an amount distributed.

84. (Currently amended) The storage medium according to Claim 67 ~~[[81]]~~, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of processing the received aggregated payment.

85. (Currently amended) The storage medium according to Claim 67 ~~[[84]]~~, ~~wherein the act of processing the received payment is comprised of at least one of the acts of~~ further comprising:

~~performing a consolidated receivables process to gather payment data into consolidated receivables data for a single report;~~

~~matching the consolidated receivables data to an outstanding sub-invoice file, and providing the matched data to the seller; and~~

providing complete accounts receivable processing, ~~the act of providing complete accounts receivable processing~~ comprising the acts of:

- receiving the matched data;
- applying the merged and consolidated receivables data to create accounts receivable and general ledger update data; and

updating a general ledger corresponding to the seller.

86. (Currently amended) The storage medium according to Claim 67 ~~[[84]]~~, wherein the payment data gathered into the single report during the consolidated receivables process is received from a plurality of service providers.

87. (Currently amended) The storage medium according to Claim 67 ~~[[81]]~~, wherein the code, when executed, further performs an allocation act comprising the acts of:

~~receiving the authorized payment;~~

disaggregating the received payment to associate portions of the received payment with one or more selling sub-entities;

processing the received payment to update an accounts receivable system;

generating at least one funding report;

delivering the at least one funding report to the respective sub-entities; and

transferring the disaggregated funds to financial accounts for the corresponding sub-entities.

88. (Original) The storage medium according to Claim 87, wherein the funding report generation act is comprised of the act of updating a payment master database to reflect a distribution status and amount distributed to the corresponding subsidiary.

89. (Original) The storage medium according to Claim 88, wherein the funding report comprises at least one of:

a list of sub-invoice items included in the distribution;

a payment date;

results of exception and dispute processing;

sub-invoice details; and

reason codes.

90. (Currently amended) The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the code, when executed, further performs an allocation act that includes the acts of:

~~receiving a payment;~~

determining an incremental funding amount;

funding a subsidiary corresponding to a holding account via a foreign exchange if the incremental funding amount equals or exceeds a predetermined total when combined with a holding account amount; and

allocating the incremental funding amount to the holding account amount when the incremental funding amount is less than the predetermined total when combined with the holding account amount.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of assigning a unique reference number to the consolidated invoice to enable tracking and invoice management.

92-93. (Canceled)

94. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 67 wherein the programmatic code further performs the act of assigning a unique reference number to the consolidated invoice to enable tracking and invoice management.

95. (Canceled)

96. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining before the order is booked whether the at least one buyer is able to effect payment.

97. (Canceled)

98. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the consolidated invoice is received before or contemporaneous with an aggregated payment on the approved orders.

99. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the aggregated payment comprises a payment to two or more subsidiaries of the seller.